



Any funeral arrangements must be made with the wishes of the deceased in mind; details may have been left in a will- always **check** before you begin making your own arrangements.

Although most people are happy to hand funeral arrangements over to a professional, as there are so many other tasks to be performed after a death, there is no legal reason to do so - arranging and conducting a funeral without employing a funeral director is something that only a very small minority of families undertake, but the families that have done this are always surprised how straight forward it was with a little advice.

Independent funerals can help you come to terms with your loss. Some people feel this is one final thing they can do for their loved one; others value the chance to create a highly personal ceremony.

Whilst a very personal interment ceremony can be arranged through a Funeral Director, we do **allow independent funerals of cremated remains.**

There are certain things you'll need to sort out for yourself (although some undertakers offer advice, for which they may charge) such as whether there is to be a service at the cemetery- booking well in advance and appointing and briefing an officiant for it; arranging music and floral tributes.

There are only a few regulations covering the disposal of a body within the UK.

Registration

All deaths **MUST** be registered. There is a fee payable for the registration which includes the issue of a "Certified Entry of Death"- the death certificate. The final form that you will receive will be dark green in colour and is the "Registrars Certificate of Burial or Cremation" (also known commonly as the Disposal Certificate).

Once the cremation has taken place you will receive a Cremated Remains Certificate along with your chosen receptacle. This is a **Very Important Document** and one that you must hang on to. It is this form that you will have to present to us and without it the funeral will be DELAYED. This is the **only** form that officially notifies the cemetery that the cremation has been legitimately carried out and that the funeral may therefore legally proceed.

Administration

You are advised to obtain documentation from our office as early as you can. **We will advise on the completion of the relevant forms and the need for any supporting paper-work** such as the type of receptacle; deeds of ownership if a re-opening and whether any memorials need to be moved; the details of any service you may have chosen.

Correctly completed documentation, including the Cremation Certificate, and payment must be handed in at least 48 hours **BEFORE** the funeral. (If, however, the interment is to take place immediately after the collection of the receptacle, the Certificate may be handed over on arrival at the Cemetery.) Make sure that you obtain verification that all is in order before you go ahead with your other arrangements.

Interment

Cremated remains may be buried in previously purchased graves that contain coffined burials or you can purchase a new grave space or a cremated remains grave space.

The area can only be prepared by our authorised staff or contractor. There is a fee for this work.

On the Day

On arrival at the Cemetery, you will be greeted by a Member of staff who will check your details and lead you to the designated prepared area. He/she will remain at a discreet distance in case assistance is required.

In the case of a new or re-opened grave, staff will ensure the area is tidied after mourners depart.

Administration staff are also available during office hours if you have any queries or need clarification of the process or assistance with the required paperwork.